



Attorney Docket: 381AS/44307C2  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TOSHIMICHI MINOWA ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/820,533 Group Art Unit: 3661

Filed: MARCH 30, 2001 Examiner: D. Tran

Title: AUTOMOTIVE CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD

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Brose

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**Box AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**RECEIVED**

January 7, 2002

JAN 11 2002

**GROUP 3600**

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed on or about July 5, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 16 as follows: (A copy of a marked up version with markings to show changes made is attached hereto.)

16. (Amended) A method of controlling a vehicle, wherein when a driving force of the vehicle is changed from a driving force of a first running mode wherein a driving force of the vehicle is controlled according to a first target value determined from an accelerator pedal position to a driving force of a second running mode wherein a driving force of the vehicle is controlled according to a second target value determined from an environmental operating conditions ahead of said vehicle, if a difference between the driving force of said first running mode and the driving force of said second running mode exceeds a

B)